

82-12344

Washington, D.C. 20505

05 OCT 1982

Honorable Howard M. Metzenbaum
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Metzenbaum:

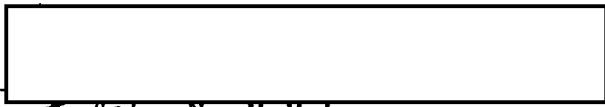
Thank you for your letter of 1 September requesting information on our authority to provide physical protection to Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officials.

While I can understand your concern that there is no specific authority to provide physical protection to Cabinet Secretaries and their Assistants, I would like to assure you that the CIA is authorized to protect CIA personnel. Specifically, Section 5 of the CIA Act of 1949 authorizes CIA to provide its personnel with armed protection. Both the Director of Central Intelligence and I are regularly afforded physical protection by career CIA security officers due to the highly sensitive nature of the classified information and activities attendant to our positions.

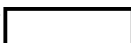

I trust that this will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

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John N. McMahon
Acting Director of Central Intelligence

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OEXA:LLD:RJK:rjg (16 Sept 82)
Retyped:OGC: (6 Oct 82)

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